<u>CLAIMS:</u>

We claim:

1.   A discussion forum resource comprising:

at least one topic thread disposed in the discussion resource forum and created for externally sourced content in the discussion forum resource; and,

a data aggregator coupled to said at least one topic thread and configured to manage said externally sourced content in said at least one topic thread.

2.   The discussion forum resource of claim 1, wherein said externally sourced content comprise data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery and video.

3.   The discussion forum resource of claim 1, wherein said externally sourced content comprise postings for another discussion forum resource.

4.   The discussion forum resource of claim 3, wherein said data aggregator further comprises a configuration for writing responsive postings in said at least one topic thread disposed in the discussion forum resource to said another discussion forum resource.

5.   A discussion forum management method comprising the steps of:

receiving externally sourced data for posting in a discussion forum resource;

creating a new topic thread for said externally sourced data; and,

permitting responsive postings to said externally sourced data in said new topic thread.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate to said externally sourced data; and,

posting said subsequently received postings to said external data source if it is determined that said subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate to said externally sourced data.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said externally sourced data comprises data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery and video.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said externally sourced data comprises postings for another discussion forum resource.

9. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for discussion forum management, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving externally sourced data for posting in a discussion forum resource;

creating a new topic thread for said externally sourced data; and,

permitting responsive postings to said externally sourced data in said new topic thread.

10.   The machine readable storage of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate to said externally sourced data; and,

posting said subsequently received postings to said external data source if it is determined that said subsequently received postings are responsive postings which relate to said externally sourced data.

11.   The machine readable storage of claim 9, wherein said externally sourced data comprises data selected from the group consisting of text, audio, imagery and video.

12.   The machine readable storage of claim 9, wherein said externally sourced data comprises postings for another discussion forum resource.

13.   A collaborative environment configured to include external data sources in a discussion forum resource comprising:

at least two discussion forum resources coupled to each other; and,

a data aggregator disposed between said at least two discussion forum resources and configured to synchronize postings related to one another in said at least two discussion forum resources.